

EDUCATION

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nashoba Regional School District continues to be a vibrant, thriving educational community consisting of students, staff, parents and citizens who value above all a rigorous education that affords student options and choices when they graduate. Ninety-two (92%) percent of our seniors in 2012 were accepted to over two hundred seventy-three (273) post-secondary institutions. Eighty-one percent (81%) of our students attend a four (4) year college, while nine percent (9%) more attend a two (2) year college. Over fifty-six (56%) percent of our senior class scored a three (3) or better on the four hundred nine (409) Advanced Placement (AP) Exams taken over the course of the last school year. We had six (6) national AP Scholars, eleven (11) National Merit Commendations, and four (4) National Merit Semi-Finalists.

Our high school underwent a smooth change in leadership with the hiring of our new Principal, Dr. Frank (Parry) Graham. Dr. Graham has distinguished himself as an educator in the first few months of his tenure, working with staff to start the accreditation process, with parents on the high school improvement council on goals addressing school climate and safety, and with students through classroom visits, attendance at extracurricular events and sports competitions.

The high school, a convener of our student bodies from three different towns, shows a tremendous amount of accomplishment through its extracurricular events as well. Our ***Best Buddies Chapter*** has been awarded its highest honor for the Commonwealth. Committed to helping students with disabilities assimilate into the culture of the high school at every turn, our best buddies strive to have all of our students involved in sports, theater and everyday events such as school lunch. The high school drama club has been busy putting on very ambitious productions like "***We Love Lucy***" (Fall 2012) and last year, we presented "***Disney's Beauty and the Beast***" in the spring. We were nominated for fifteen (15) TAMY awards by the Mount Wachusett Community College theatre organization in which we competed. We won five (5) of the awards, including Best Scenic Design, Best Lighting Design, Best Costumes, and Best Director.

This fall we had champion teams in all varsity sports with each one making State tournaments. The football team earned a spot in the division super bowl and won against Shepherd Hill at Gillette Stadium. In *Volleyball* we earned the best overall record since the program began. *The Boys' Cross-Country team* was the Mid-Watch B League Champions and earned 4th place in District Championship. *The Girls' Cross-Country squad* was the Mid-Wach B League Champions; MIAA Central Mass. Division 1 Champions (first time since 2000); and placed 11th in the State overall. Freshman Rylee Gillen (Stow) placed first in the League and District Championship. In winter of 2012 our League All-Stars total was twenty-three (23).

The teams all benefited from the generous contributions of our citizens toward the favorable vote to renovate the existing stadium to create a new multi-plex with an artificial-turf new track and adjoined with five new tennis courts. A new building that will house concessions still is to be built along with housing comfort stations for visitors and spectators. Future renovations include

earth work to level practice fields and to relocate the baseball diamond and provide fill to extend the javelin throwing area.

The District's elementary schools continue to strive toward excellence with each one having a unique, caring and dedicated staff to do so. The Center School was completed on September 4, 2012, a crowning achievement to a collaborative process that took the past nine years to accomplish. It is a beautiful school, with attractive grounds and a wonderful connection to Stow's history. The school is furnished with interactive white boards, one-to-one computing capabilities, and incredible spaces for music instruction and performances. The staff has implemented a new program entitled Peaceful Playgrounds that helps children make more out of recess through problem solving and advance planning to ensure their time is well spent. Additionally, physical education teachers Diana Mandile and Marcia Melone have been working to update the Project Adventure course and outdoor classroom.

Hale Middle School has a beautiful new sign to welcome visitors as it continues to focus on exploring students' interests in everything from theater, cooking and art, to athletics, robotics and print journalism. Hale's staff has been instrumental in leading the district's efforts in using Google Applications and has a plethora of student work samples as a result. They have been huge advocates of voice thread opportunities in their work, thus saving student voices forever.

The District also said goodbye to many fine individuals in 2012.

Cheryl Benson (Stow)	Dawn Laughlin (Lancaster)
Sheryl Lavigne (Lancaster)	Paulette Prucha (Lancaster)
Grace Raher (Lancaster)	Marion Rayner (Stow)
Pat Fontes (NRHS)	Linda Marashio (Stow)
Janet Savignano (Stow)	

Financial Stability

Our District continues to enjoy a healthy financial status. We have weathered significant economic turbulence, while at the same time having budgets on average less than three (3%) percent increases; eliminating positions, but not staff; and continued attention toward the foundational elements of good instruction: professional development, teacher resources, and highly talented professionals. Our FY 13 District budget is \$44,675,778. It allowed us enough capacity to maintain all existing professional positions, and required only minimal transitions among para-professionals and support staff. With a student population just over 3500 students, our growth has been minimal from year to year at less than one (1%) percent. We have earned a **AA bond rating** for the ninth (9) year running.

We have an outstanding school system that thrives on the work of teaching and learning. We are thankful to be comprised of three communities that value education so that their children and greater community will benefit for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. Wood, Superintendent of Schools

Maureen Busch, Stow representative

Lynn Colletti, Stow representative

Jeffrey Odell, Stow representative